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Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 00090 030834Z

20
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NSCE-00 OMB-01 CU-04 DRC-01 NIC-01 /100 W
---------- 006163
R 030800Z JAN 74
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9136
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR LAD

3.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, CH
SUBJ: PEKING'S 1974 SUPPORT-ARMY CIRCULAR

1. THE REGIME'S 1974 CIRCULAR ON FOSTERING ARMY-CIVILIAN RELATIONS, AN ANNUAL EXERCISE, IS MORE RELAXED THAN LAST YEAR'S MESSAGE AND GIVES THE MILITARY PRAISE, SOMETHING THE NEW YEAR EDITORIAL FAILED TO DO (HONG KONG 0001). THE TEXT AS RELEASED BY NCNA'S DOMESTIC SERVICE DECEMBER 31 AND PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH JANUARY 2, IS CONSIDERABLY LONGER THAN LAST YEAR'S AND CREDITS THE PLA WITH "FRESH CONTRIBUTIONS IN DEFENSE, REVOLUTION, AND CONSTRUCTION. THE PLA IS TOLD IN STANDARD TERMS TO PROPAGATE THE VICTORY OF THE CULTURAL REVOLUTION, THOROUGHLY CRITICIZE LIN PIAO, AND CARRY OUT THE TASKS OF THE TENTH PARTY CONGRESS.

2. LAST YEAR'S MESSAGE, A TERSE THREE PARAGRAPHS WHICH OMITTED ANY MENTION OF THE PLA IN POLITICS, STRUCK US AT THE TIME AS WRITING OFF THE PLA'S ROLE IN POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS (1973 HONG KONG 0098). EVENTS IN 1973--THE DILUTION OF THE
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MILITARY'S GRIP ON TOP PROVINCIAL POSTS FROM THREE-FIFTHS OF THE

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SENIOR PARTY POSITIONS TO UNDER HALF, THE REDUCTION OF MILITARY REPRESENTATION IN THE NATIONAL HIERARCHY AT THE AUGUST PARTY CONGRESS, AND THE DRAMATIC MASSIVE SHIFT OF*MILITARY REGION COMMANDERS ON NEW YEAR'S EVE (HONG KONG 0032)--AMPLY BORE OUT THAT INDICATION. ALTHOUGH THIS YEAR'S JANUARY 1 EDITORIAL SUGGESTED THAT THE MILITARY MIGHT STILL BE WANTING IN ITS RESPONSIVENESS TO CENTRAL AND CIVILIAN DIRECTION, THE MILITARY HAS NOW TAKEN A CONSIDERABLE PARING DOWN OF ITS POLITICAL ROLE.
OSBORN

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NNN

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 03 JAN 1974
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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